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ABSTRACT

This packet contains teaching ideas for a unit on India. It is based on a series of interviews of people from India and directs students to develop a museum kit from the research. The packet begins with a unit on the United Nations and uses India as the model country for students to write their own projects. Questions for consideration are included as are numerous resources. (EH)

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India

Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar Abroad 1994 (India)

Curriculum Projects Developed by 1994 Seminar Participants

Submitted to

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United States Educational Foundation in India

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Dear O.P. & Fulbright Friends)
C/B

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- 9 JAN 1995
USEFI, NEW DELHI.

Most years I start the school year out with a United Nations unit. After presenting the student with important information about the purpose & history of the U.N. We can plug in many social, environmental & political issues to this foundation. Examples of this would be having the students work in groups to write their own "Rights of the Child" and then having them check their awareness against the U.N.'s manifesto (I am always impressed with their sensitivity. The one right which they fail to mention is the right to a home land. They also includes things close to their own need ie - to have two parents, no divorces).

Based on the model, I present students, they are required to research their own heritage. They choose one ancestoral country to research its history, traditions. Their work usually includes recipes, a drawing of someone wearing national dress and a flag. Students are encouraged to interview a family member about immigration, education, childhood memories etc.

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Some years we also create a museum. The students learn all the functions & jobs of museum personal. They are given model museums. And selected students visit the Seattle Art Museum. They bring back information to share with classmates. Students bring in & organize their own collections. These collections range from baseball cards, Disney memorabilia to international doll collections. One year the entire school became involved in this process & we created a Russian museum. I hope that I can influence the school to create an Indian museum soon.

From our U.N. studies and the museum process we celebrate U.N. days. Students come dressed in national dress or wear flags from one of their ancestral countries. We share information with other classes on the U.N. and its importance in the world. Students then share their research projects with their classmates & families.

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Using the United Nations' Units framework I am now presenting India as my model country for students to use to write their own projects. See enclosed general overview on India. Geography and map skills are also incorporated. Artifacts collected on my journey in India will be use as the museum base.

I recently attended a multicultural convention and received the wonderful Indian interviews which I enclosed. I am in the process of developing my own set of questions for my students to do interviews with various Americans from all walks of life.

I apologize for the sparse overview that I am sending. (U.N. units & museum project not included - too bulky.) I hope that this note will help you realize that my Indian project does not have a ending. This summer I hope to write my contributions to our district social studies units using the Indian savannas materials I am still collecting.

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My sojourn in India has enriched my life and my soul. I continue to have opportunities to reflect upon and enhance my "Indian experience" through my association with Ragamala, People to Progress in India and Hand-in-Hand. I feel honored to be ask to present my Fulbright-Hays experience to a number of organizations and groups.

Thank you for helping me feel healthy & happy during my stay in India And most of all for an awareness of the richness and diversity of India and its contribution to humanity.

Joan Youmans
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To see the world through someone else's eyes, even if its a glimpse, helps one to value the world as a kaleidoscope. India's richness has enhanced my being.

Student research project based on India as a model.

Goals.

- To provide an awareness of India's history & culture.
- To build self awareness and self esteem in students by celebrating their "roots".
- To help students reflect on their own American culture.
- To foster an interest in others.
- To use information from the United Nations Unit as a springboard to talk about world issues. (When we do environmental units in the spring for Earth Day we can discuss the issues that face the United States and India concerning water, deforestation, pollution ect.)

From books, newspaper articles and my cultural toy from India students will learn about daily living, customs & traditions.

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Students will also have the opportunity to learn about festivals when I present my unit on the celebration of Dark & Light (New Years customs) - ie Diwali)

During art classes they will learn about tie-dyeing (mahaju or Schiboris), alpanas & chalk patterns (rangoli)

Students will read Indian interviews & interview 4 or 5 people. Questions will be modified to included "what do you think about Canada & India?"

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Introduction

Indian civilization is both ancient and complex. In addition to an intellectual and spiritual legacy, India has made significant contributions in the fields of science, technology and the arts.

1. Humped Bull and Script, early art object

As early as 2500 B.C., the cities of the Harappan civilization in the Indus Valley were organized and built in the most advanced city planning techniques yet known in history. Houses were built of fired brick and were connected to the most elaborate urban drainage system known anywhere in the world prior to those of Rome. Granaries that stored wheat and bronze and copper tools were signs of agricultural and metallurgical expertise.

Early art objects depicted elephants, tigers, hares, the humped-Brahmin bull, ascetic figures in yoga postures and female earth goddesses. Although the Harappan civilization declined, the cultural patterns were reborn in the subsequent Indian historical civilization. More than four thousand years later similar technical skills and artistic motifs are still prevalent, now spread out across the sub-continent.

India is proud to maintain the world's largest democracy—not an easy job in a country that has sixteen major languages and hundreds of dialects. Artisans working today in desert villages, in the rain forests and foothills of the Himalayas and farmers cultivating the lands in the vast plains, confirm that India is the oldest continuous civilization in the world, without a doubt the most diverse in terms of geography, religious practice and ethnic heritage—from Naga tribes along the India-Burma border in the east, to the Tamils in the south, to the descendants of Rajput warriors in the west, and to the muslims of Kashmir and the Tibetan influenced Ladakhis in the north.

India's history is as rich in jewelled splendor as it is with human understanding and emotion:

—A prince named Siddhartha who was born over 2500 years ago, renounced his material possessions, fasted and attained enlightenment under a Bodhi tree. Through sermons and teachings, he introduced Buddhism and changed the course of history in all of Asia.

2. Orissa wheel, stone sculpture

—In the 17th century a grieving emperor Shah Jahan built a monument for his beloved wife Mumtaz. This exquisite architectural masterpiece known as the Taj Mahal, is one of the splendors of the world.

—Hindu architectural wonders like the Sun Temple of Konarak and the British influenced accomplishments attained during the days of the Raj add to the wealth of artistic and technological achievements.

Since Independence in 1947, India has made rapid progress in the fields of energy, agriculture and space communication. Today India is assertive and competent in developing the technological expertise that will enrich the country's power and resources in the 21st century.

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Map of India

Historical Highlights

c 2500 B.C.	Harappan civilization flourishes
c 2000	Sea going vessels in use and lost wax casting techniques developed
c 1500	Astronomy and the stellar zodiac evolved The Vedas, the earliest sacred Hindu hymns composed
c 600	The Sulba (Shulva) Sutra Theorem (Pythagorean Theorem) is determined The value of Pi determined
c 560-480	The Buddha lived and preached
c 400	Damascus steel is manufactured The basic concept of the atom is introduced
c 277-232	Emperor Ashoka proclaims "righteousness" as the basis for rule
c 200	The use of Zero introduced Natural medicines from plant, animal and mineral sources in use
c 100 A.D.	Indian numerals determined (later borrowed by the Arabs, now called Arabic Numerals) Ayurvedic Medical text, Charaka Samhita, is written

c 200	Metal surgical instruments in use
c 300	Ajanta Buddhist cave murals painted
c 375-415	The Non—rusting Iron Pillar of Delhi is manufactured
499	Aryabhata states that the earth revolves around the sun and rotates on its axis
c1230	The Konarak Temple in Orissa is constructed
c1500	The portable cannon cleaner(Yarghu) for 16 cannons is in use Zinc smelting process is invented
1600	British East India Company is incorporated Reign of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan Taj Mahal is built
1724	Yantar Mantar (Jantar Mantar) observation structure aids in naked eye astronomical observation
1853	Railway system started First successful cotton textile mill opens in Bombay Birth of modern industry
1947	Independence
1948-	Advancements in the fields of energy, agriculture and space communications

Technological Highlights from the Past

Mathematics

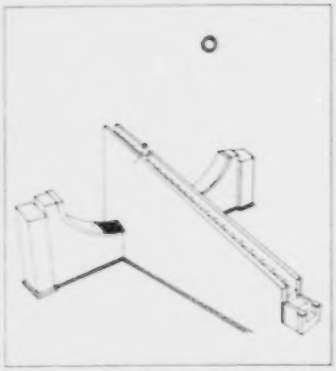
What we know as Arabic Numerals were actually developed in India. Later the Arabs borrowed the numerals and introduced them into Europe. The concept of zero was also introduced in India, as well as the concept of the Pythagorean Theorem. The theorem, which states that the square of the hypotenuse of a triangle with a right angle is equal to the sum of the square of the other two sides, was discovered through the practice of making ritual fire altars in precise rectangular, triangular and square shapes.

10^{53} TALLAKSANA
1 000000000 000000000 000000000 000000000 000000000 000

EKA 1
DASA 10
SATA 100
SAHASRA 1000
AYUTA 10000
NIYUTA 100000
PRAYUTA 1000000
ARBUDA 10000000
NYARBUDA 100000000
SAMUDRA 1000000000
MADHYA 10000000000
ANTA 100000000000
PARARDHA 1000000000000

4. Early Mathematical System

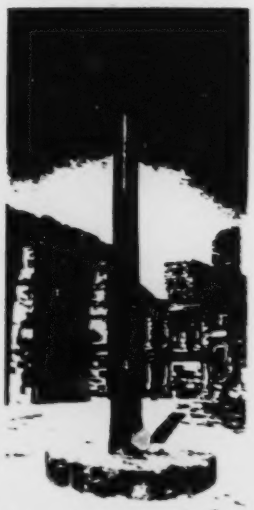
Astronomy



5. Samrat Yantra, a masonry structure, is used for measuring time during the day and the position of the stars at night.

One thousand years before Copernicus, Aryabhata proclaimed in India that the earth revolves around the sun and rotates on an axis. In the 18th century, Jai Singh II built five huge observatories in Delhi, Jaipur, Mathura, Varanasi, and Ujjain. The masonry astronomical instruments aid in observation of the stars with the naked eye. Some of the instruments are used for measuring time, declination and the position of the stars. In modern India celestial observation and research have intensified. The first Indian radio telescope was designed, developed and installed in South India by Indian scientists. The scale model in the exhibit gives an accurate picture of its scope and design.

Metallurgy



6. The 23-foot-high rust-proof iron pillar of Delhi was built during the Gupta dynasty and is still admired by metallurgists the world over.

Iron implements date back to the 12th century B.C. The famous Damascus Steel sword blades were first produced by smiths in South India. The Delhi Iron Pillar still defies explanation. Many theories have been suggested to explain why the pillar has not rusted in the 1600 years it has been standing. Zinc smelting reached a high degree of refinement almost two hundred years before the process was discovered in Europe. A replica of a yarghu or portable cannon cleaner illustrates an ingenious method for cleaning sixteen cannons at once with the power of a single oxen. It was designed by an inventor in Emperor Akbar's court in the 16th century.

Early Medicine

The fourth book of Vedic literature, the Atharvaveda, contains passages devoted to medicine. Major Ayurvedic medical texts dating from the 1st, 2nd and 7th century are still consulted today. In addition to utilizing herbal medicines and animal and mineral substances for medicine, early Ayurvedic texts depicted surgical instruments fashioned after the jaws and bites of various animals and birds. Another medical system arose in the cultural synthesis produced by the coming of Islam to South Asia. The Unani medical system, like the Ayurvedic, uses herbal, animal and mineral substances for medicinal purposes.

Alchemy

By the 5th century A.D. Indian alchemists had fully developed laboratories. In addition to mercurial compounds and metallic preparations, early alchemists made perfumes from flowers, herbs, and spices such as jasmine, khas grass, khus root, musk, sandalwood, cedar, mint, cinnamon, dill, celery, saffron and even certain clays. The Rasashala or alchemy lab that is featured in the exhibit is reconstructed from old Sanskrit texts.

14. Cosmetics, women adorn themselves with dyes made from bark or berries.

Cosmetics

Alaktaka, a dye made from the bark or berries of the tamal tree, is used as a lipstick and rouge as well as a paint for the hands and feet. Hindu women traditionally place a tika, a dot of red vermillion powder, on their foreheads to ensure the well being of their families. The use of henna, or mehendi, for decorating the hands and feet, is very popular. The powdered henna is made into a paste which is applied to the hands and feet in a variety of designs. After a number of minutes, the dye seeps into the skin. The patterns will last a week or longer.

Advances in Technology—

Agriculture

India has achieved self-sufficiency in food production largely through the impact of the green revolution, especially the development of new seeds and seed varieties and fertilizer techniques—an important fact for this populous nation. Important crops such as cotton, silk, jute, coffee and tea are now produced in quantity to allow India the opportunity to export to the world.

Transportation

India maintains the third largest railway system in the world. Over 3.5 billion passengers travel every year by train. India is also a major manufacturer of railway equipment that is exported to other countries. The indigenous automobile industry provides 99% of the cars in use on Indian roads today.

Energy

India is actively developing its sources of energy: from hydro-power, solar energy, bio-energy, wind energy, to geothermal and animal energy sources as well as nuclear energy. Not many countries in the world have developed nuclear energy resources. India is one of the few countries and the only one among the developing countries to attain self-reliance in all aspects of nuclear power generation.

INDIA - some interesting facts

At the same lattitude as Mexico and Saudi Arabia

1/3 the size of the USA in land area

About 900 million people growing by the population of Australia each year!

About 350 million head of cattle

Clean water is the country's biggest problem

India is 12 1/2 hours ahead of us in time

Many of the cultural traditions of India have been handed down through the generations by oral transmission. People learn things and memorize them rather than relying on writing them down. Arts are transmitted by spoken instruction and by example which the student imitates.

India is a country of many languages. Most educated people know their own language, English, and perhaps another language related to their work or travels.

- Trade routes overland and around Africa brought black pepper, cotton cloth, and gem stones into Europe from India in the 15th century. Columbus, trying to establish an ocean route to India sailed from Spain heading west in the 1490s. He arrived at a Caribbean island and named the inhabitants "Indians", a name thought to have derived from the peoples of the Indus Valley. He thought he had traveled far enough to reach India.

Loan words from India in useage in American English include shampoo, bandana, pajama, bungalow, dinghi, dungarees.

HINDI ALPHABET

CONSONANTS

क=K	ख=KH	ग=G	घ=GH	ङ
च=CH	छ=CHH	ज=J	झ=JH	ञ
ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण
त=T	थ=TH	द=D	ध=DH	न=N
प=P	फ=F	ब=B	भ=BH	म=M
य=Y pronounced "ya"	र=R	ल=L	व=W =V	श=SH
	ष=SH	स=S	ह=H	

Vowels	Their Signs	Vowels	Their Signs
अ		ऋ	ृ
आ=A pronounced "ah" or "aa"	ा	ए	े
इ	ि	ऐ=E pronounced "aye"	ै
ई=I pronounced "ee"	ी	ओ	ो
उ	ु	औ=O pronounced "AO"	ौ
ऊ=U pronounced "oo"	ू	अं	ं
		अः	ः

NUMBERS FROM 1 - 10

१ २ ३
४ ५ ६
७ ८ ९
१०

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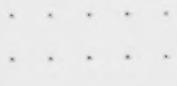
RANGOLI CHALK PATTERNS

A friend of mine, Saroj, learned to do chalk patterns from the south of India from her aunt. They have no name for them in their own language but in Hindi they're called "rangoli", in Tamil they're called "kalam", and in Tamil-Kanada dialect they're called "tirupandi".

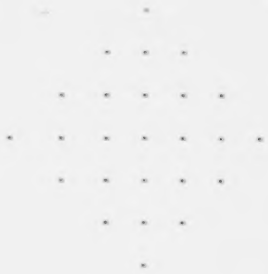
These patterns are drawn each day on the floor in the alter room and on the front step of the house after the areas have been swept clean and have been sanctified with a smooth slick of cow dung. In preparation for festivals and weddings the floors are cleaned and then a design is made which goes around all of the floors. This is done with rice flour which dries to a sparkling white and adheres to the floor. Sometimes the spaces in the designs are colored by putting sugar water on the space and then sprinkling turmeric powder (a golden color) or cayenne (a red color) onto the sticky sugar.

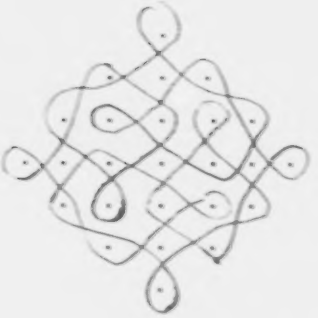
In some rural areas designs are drawn on the walls in patterns unique to each village.

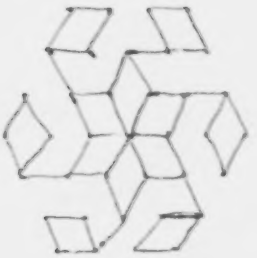
rangoli dot patterns



rangoli designs







Recipes for an Indian Meal

They include a subji made of cauliflower and potatoes, dal made from split peeled lentils (red lentils), a yoghurt salad called raitha, and a sweet made from suji (cream of wheat).

Subji:

cauliflower
4 potatoes
4 T oil
1 1/2 T minced fresh ginger root
2 pinches hing*
1 t cumin seeds
2 T ground coriander
1/2 t turmeric
1/4 t cayenne
1 chopped green chili
1/2 t salt
fresh coriander (cilantro) leaves
1 T lemon juice

- break apart and partially steam cauliflower
- boil, peel, and cube potato
- fry in oil
- add cauliflower and cook about 10 min. stirring
- add potatoes and cook about 5 min. more
- add cut up chili, lemon juice, chopped coriander leaves, and salt and stir together and serve

Dal:

1/2 c red lentils
1 inch raw ginger root
4 cloves garlic
1 small onion
1 tomato
1/2 t turmeric
4 T butter
1 t cumin seeds
1 t black mustard seeds
1/4 t cayenne
1 t ground coriander
fresh coriander (cilantro) leaves

- boil dal with chopped raw ginger root, cut up tomato, chopped onion, 1/2 t turmeric, and 4 cloves garlic until broken down and smooth (about 1/2 hr)
- fry in butter, cumin, black mustard seeds, cayenne, ground coriander. When seeds begin to jump and pop add to dal
- chop small handful of fresh coriander leaves and add just before eating

Raitha:

1 pt plain yoghurt
fresh coriander leaves
9 black pepper corns
1 t cumin seeds
1 cucumber

- fry pepper corns and cumin in a dry pan until toasted and then grind in a mortar and pestle
- add to yoghurt with a handful of chopped coriander leaves and salt
- peel and dice cucumber and stir in

Suji:

1 c cream of wheat (suji)
1 1/2 c water
1/4 c butter or ghee (clarified butter oil)
1/2 c sugar
6 pods cardamom
1 T raisins
1 T cashews

- simmer cracked cardamom pods for about
- soak raisins in warm water
- fry cream of wheat in butter
- bring cardamom-spiced water volume to 1 1/2 c and add carefully while stirring to the cream of wheat
- add sugar and remove from heat
- strain raisins and add
- fry cashews in butter and add

SOCIO-CULTURAL SYSTEM WORKSHEET

PATTERNS OF DAILY LIFE: Description of the actual physical behavior of the members of a culture.

1. COMMUNICATION: What systems exist to facilitate the spread of information in society? E.g. TV, advertising, support groups etc.
2. SOCITAL CONTROL OF BEHAVIOR: How does society control the behavior of individuals to meet its expectation? E.g. courts, school rules, laws, etc.
3. SOCIAL SERVICES: In what ways do members of a society reach out to those in need? E.g. meals of wheels, YMCA, Special Olympics, etc.
4. CELEBRATIONS AND TRADITIONS: What are the shared traditions that help establish a cultural identity? E.g. Christmas, Hanukha, Chinese New Year, etc.
5. ECONOMIC PATTERNS: What are the patterns of buying and selling in the culture? E.g. credit cards, shopping malls, grocery stores, etc.
6. SOCIAL INTERACTIONS: How do individuals within the society expand their horizons beyond the family unit? E.g. PTSA, scouting, senior centers, etc.
7. EDUCATION: How does a society educate its members? E.g. children, adults, family, etc.

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8. PASSAGES: What are the milestones recognized by society in a person's lifetime? E.g. rites of passage, marriage, baptisms, funerals, etc.

9. HUMANITIES: How do people within a culture express themselves through the arts? E.g. music, dance, writing, visual arts, etc.

CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS: The common beliefs and shared values held by a culture that shape cultural patterns.

1. CAUSATIONS: What are the age old beliefs and explanations used by a society to justify personal and natural events? E.g. home remedies, superstitions, Easter Bunny, etc.

2. FAMILY EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: In what ways does the family unit teach its members the social expectations and responsibilities? E.g. chores, allowances, education, parental care, definition of the "Good Life", etc.

3. NEW DIRECTIONS: What are the current trends and new ideas in society? E.g. organic foods, alternative medicines, Ninja Turtles. etc.

4. CONCEPT OF THE SELF: How does the "self" relate to the larger social fabric? How does the society value and measure "success"? E.g. "self" in relation to social hierarchy, "self" in relation to nature, "self" in relation to significant others, the individual, etc.

ENVIRONMENT

1. ENVIRONMENT CREATED BY HUMANS: What environmental problems do humans create? E.g. urban sprawl, pollution, deforestaion, endangered species, etc.
2. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: What problems are posed by the environment? E.g. global climate changes, el Nino, etc.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

1. STATISTICAL DATA: E.g. gender, age, ethnic origin, population density.

After the posters are complete the class should hold a discussion on the systemic relationships between cultural assumptions, environment, demographics and the patterns of daily life. In what ways do the first three impact our daily life and activities?

Using the four posters on CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS, with guidance from the teacher/facilitator, the students will list answers to the following questions on butcher paper. (Groups should generate more questions on similar themes.)

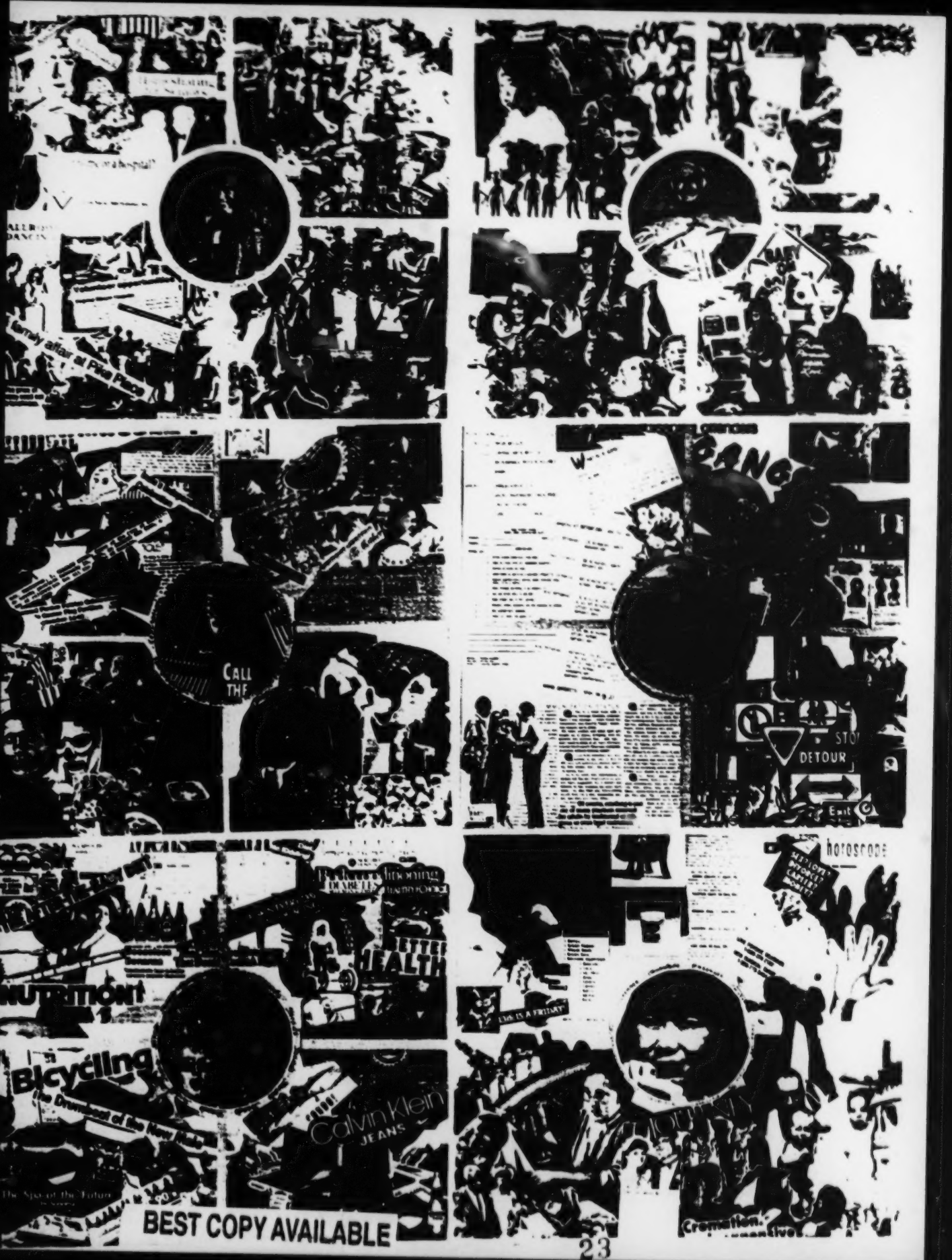
1. What is an individual's status in society?
2. What role does technology play in this society?
3. How do members define success?

4. How important is religion?

5. Where do members get moral support?

6. How does an individual get ahead in life?

7. What is the concept of the "good life" in this society?



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INTERVIEWS

NAME AND AGE	OCCUPATION	PAGE
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Angela A. Duncan is only fifteen years old. Her family adults on stipends after the fifth grade. Now she helps her mother in the house and works as a sitter for two other families every morning.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I would get a job as a telephone operator.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would become more extroverted.

Family: If my father had a better job, then I won't have to work in other people's houses.

Country: I wish that people did not judge each other by caste....I don't mean just the laws but in peoples' minds!

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: My mother is already sick. I really worry about her health.

Country: I don't know.

World: War... like war between India and Pakistan.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I can not imagine.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

I don't know.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I have heard that it is a good country with many good natured people.

Mexico: I have heard the name but I have no mental

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image of this country.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I loved school a lot. I wish the situation in my family was not so hard, I would have liked to continue my education.

8. Who are your heroes?

Indira Gandhi.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live in one 8'X10' room. There is a small bathroom inside the room and we share an outhouse toilet with other families in our row. Other than myself, our family consists of my parents and two brothers. I have an older married sister who does not live with us.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

My father is very hot tempered and does not listen to any one. Mother is very quiet and calm. My two brothers (ages 24 and 16) are like my mother. I don't communicate much with either of my parents. My older brother is now of marriagable age and seems too distant. I am very close to my younger brother. We talk and share a lot.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

I can not think of any.

12. What do you do for vacations?

My grandmother lives in a village. Sometimes we visit her. Then I get to play cards and jacks.

13. What are your hobbies?

Cooking. I love to cook at home.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

(Asavari took the longest time to answer this question. She seemed to know the answer but was very shy about saying it.)

I will get rid of poverty.

15. What do you fear?

I am not afraid of any thing.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

When I am with small children.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Beauty depends on how you feel in your heart.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

Society thinks that good life means having lots of money. But in my mind if I can express myself freely in my own home, then that is good life.

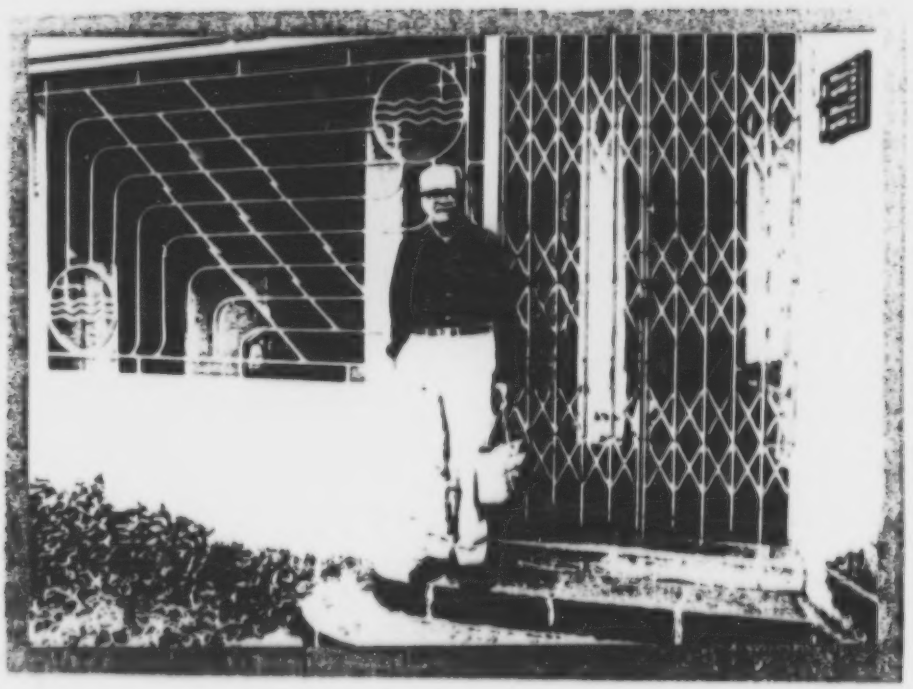
19. What is your most prized possession?

My soul. (Manas)

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

I am not sure. In some ways women are treated worse and not in others. When it comes to marriage there is most inequity. Girls are expected to get married right out of school, but boys can wait until they are older.

Baba Paramhans [illegible] wife of over fifty years. As [illegible] Baba retired as the Chief Engineer of Maharashtra years ago. His two daughters and one son live abroad with their families. Baba and Vimaltai (his wife) try to visit them as often as they can. Baba loves to go for long walks and play bridge, although he will be the first to tell you that his wife is a better bridge player!



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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I will go and stay with my children in the United States.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: Nothing. I am satisfied with life that I have led up to now. Why change?

Family: The same is true with my family. I am perfectly satisfied with them as they are!

Country: I would like to limit the population of India. I would like to see people educated. By education, what I really mean is that people should be aware of their responsibilities towards others in their life and towards their country.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: Well, at this point I have nearly completed my life. I have no pressures or aspirations, consequently, I don't foresee any problems.

Country: I don't think much will change in India over the next decade.

World: Unless the rich countries share their wealth with poorer nations, there will shortages of everything in poorer countries and this will lead to many problems.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

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No one can predict the future, so there is no point in guessing.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Democracy is going to stay in India.

Negative: Due to the lack of education, some of the people in power are not fit for their position. I am appalled at the degradation in the quality of our politicians.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I have seen that the American people are very honest about their work, duties and responsibilities. They are very hard working.

Mexico: I don't know much about Mexico.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

Our teachers were all very qualified and respected. I can not think of any negative aspects of my education.

8. Who are your heroes?

My wife....I am serious... I really mean it when I say that Vimal is my hero.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

This house was built in 1938 by my father as a single family residence. After my father's death, my brother and I divided the property. We live upstairs and he lives

down stairs with his wife. It has worked out very well for us. We feel supported and protected and at the same time, can enjoy our private and independent lives.

Our area is about 1100 square feet. We have a large kitchen, two bedrooms, living room, a large balcony and two bathrooms. It's very comfortable.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

This is the best part of my life. My wife and I have no secrets. My life is an open book. I have total faith in my wife and never feel the need to question her. She feels the same about me.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

If tradition is something that is passed from older generation to the younger generation, then I can say that in my family, it is a sense of responsibility. My father taught me that it is up to the father to set limits for his children and support them until they are independent. I have taught the same thing to my children.

12. What do you do for vacations?

Since I have retired, I am always on vacation. We go to the United States to visit our children.

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading, taking notes and playing Bridge.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do witit?

I will invest it and live on the income. I know that we

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will go to visit our kids as often as we want.

15. What do you fear?

My conscience. That is the only thing one has to fear.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In my house.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Reasonably good looks and good health.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

The ability to satisfy your normal needs constitutes good life to me. Who cares what society thinks about good life?

19. What is your most prized possession?

My character.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

No. I don't think so. If there is a difference in the way men and women are treated, it is due to difference in their education. I am really not sure about this! Since I have retired for so many years, I really have lost touch with the society at large. I basically only communicate with my family and friends. Among those people, I don't see men and women being treated differently. This may not be true in rest of the population.

Bharat Phatak, at 33 is a contended man. After a sterling academic career where he stood first in his state matriculation exams and also graduated at the top of the class at the University, he has now completed a course to become a chartered accountant. Bharat recently started an investment consulting firm. He also works with his father as an accountant. Bharat and his wife live in Pune with their six year old son.

1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I absolutely love what I am doing now and would like to just continue...!

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would lose some weight.

Family: Nothing. My family is great as it is.

Country: I would like to see financial stability in India.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: I don't foresee any problems.

Country: Violence and economic disparity are on the increase in India. Communism, which is going out of fashion, may return in other forms...such as national disintegration.

World: I see problems with the Eastern block... involvement with the Middle East....increase in nuclear fire power.... and rise in poverty where there is nothing to eat for the poor people around the world.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I am an optimist. With expansion of communication we may see a more peaceful world with the economic gains

spread out equally and stronger family units.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: We have increased our food production where India now has surplus of food. With improved communications through television, more people are better informed.

Negative: Violence is on the increase. There is unbridled corruption in India. People with money rule the masses...not necessarily people who care. Proliferation of arms in hands of the criminals is frightening. The gang members fight wars with stun guns and assault weapons in the streets of Bombay.

6.What comes to your mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: Free enterprise

Mexico: oil

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

My parents put absolutely no pressure on my to perform. They allowed me to go into the field of me choice and did not interfere even when I chose the path of least resistance. (Same career as my father who had already established a roaring practice that I can just join at will.)

It frustrates me that our education system tests a person's ability to memorize rather than the knowledge

she/he has acquired. Also practical application of knowledge is missing in our schools.

8. Who are your heroes?

Our former prime-minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live on the first floor of an apartment building. Our flat has two large bedrooms, one kitchen, a living and dining room and two bathrooms. I live there with my wife and son.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

We are a very close knit family. All issues and problems are discussed very openly. My parents house is only five minutes away and Amala's (Bharat's wife) parents also live very close by. We spend a lot of time with both sets of parents. On the average we see our parents at least three times a week. My older brother lives with his family in Bombay and my sister lives on the outskirts of our city with her husband and two children.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

Ganesh festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm in our family. Although it is a religious function, we seem to have turned it into a social event. All our nuclear families get together and enjoy each others' company. I guess we stick to rituals as family

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traditions, but are adjusting them to the modern times.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I enjoy being lazy. I don't take enough time off, when I do, we go to Goa which is on the coast.

13. What are your hobbies?

Tennis. I love to play and watch the matches on TV.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I would invest it.

15. What do you fear?

I don't fear anything. My philosophy is to take life as it comes. What will happen to everyone, will happen to me.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

At home.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Beauty is reflected in how an individual respects other human beings.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

Good life would mean spending more time working and less time worrying. I really don't think or care about what society perceives as the good life.

19. What is your most prized possession?

The trust and confidence I have in my marriage.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

Yes. From the birth a girl child is discriminated against in every field. Boys are given preference in education, sports, business. Although girls are as intelligent as boys, they are not given the same importance.

Gita Mahajan is dynamic, to say the least! She is passionate about political issues, religious issues and most of all, about about women's issues. Gita's formal education does not suggest this bent in her personality. She received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Bombay. When she was a student, she met her future husband, Nandu Mahajan. Nandu had become a committed communist while studying for an engineering degree. Both Nandu and Gita worked in the Communist Party to bring equality to the masses.

More recently, Gita, feeling stifled by the party politics, decided to do something concrete about the issue she felt the most strongly about. She has been long revolted by the treatment of women in India. She started a shelter for abused women in Thane, on the outskirts of Bombay. She, along with a few volunteers, works tirelessly for the shelter, offering protection, marriage counseling and career training for women who are abused by their husbands.

Gita is 39 years old. She lives in Thane with her husband and their eight year old daughter.

1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I will intensify my ongoing work at the shelter for abused women.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would organize my time better so that I would have more time to read in the field of my interest.

Family: I wish we had a more routine family life. Right now our life is too hectic! We need to be more organized.

Country: I wish that I could impact the attitudes of the younger people, those who are now in college. I want them to be more level headed towards issues of poverty, superstitions, mistreatment of women in our society. They need to look past religious differences (Hindu/Muslim misunderstandings). **They need to think of the future.**

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: None that I can think of. My family life is very happy.

Country: I worry about my country breaking apart. The corruption is getting worse. I project magnified unemployment. We also need to become more concerned with the environment.

World: I don't foresee a war but worry about exploitation of small countries by the large capitalistic countries. The rapid pace of advancement is going to have continuing impact on the environment and create energy crisis.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

The situation is too fluid now. I cannot predict what will happen.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Every positive change I see seems to have a negative side to it as well. The political atmosphere is NOT stagnant. People are demanding changes. On the other hand, I don't like the direction our politics is taking.

Another positive change I see is that the attitudes of women towards themselves are changing. Television is a good influence in this arena. Unfortunately not all messages that television delivers to women are positive.

Education has improved but it is also more expensive. There are more doctors and teachers' salaries have improved a little. But the commitment of doctors and teachers to their profession is not as intense.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: Government that uses political power against poor countries. Many American people that I have met are nice, sweet and very open. I feel that the

importance and prosperity of the United States is exaggerated in minds of Indians.

Mexico: I have a very good Mexican friend and I have learned a lot about the country from her. I believe that Mexico plays the balancing role in the North American countries. It is a poor country, similar to India. There are problems with the indigenous people. I think there is a nationalization of the petroleum industry.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

The only thing good I can say about my education is the personal contact I enjoyed with some of my noble teachers. I was exposed to the ideas they projected.

Other than that, school was an educational void for me. I got no physical, or cultural education in the classroom. My school did not effect a change in people. How unfortunate!

8. Who are your heroes?

I have so many. I admire Mahatma Gandhi and Fidel Castro for their political work. I have great respect for Indian saints like Dyaneshvar, Meerabai, Tukaram and others. They had a broad outlook towards life. They fought against the ritualistic Brahmins and reactionaries. They communicated with the common man through poetry and music. They showed the common man that was shunned by the Brahmins that they could reach the ultimate peace without depending on the Brahmins as

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the agents of God.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live in the basic Bombay flat, about 550 sq.ft., one bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom. Part of the year its just the three of us. Myself, my husband and our daughter. My in-laws stay with us for about six months out of the year. The other six months they live with Nandu's older brother.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

We are very open and understand each other. We are a happy family.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

I don't believe in rituals and I have worked hard to break the old world family traditions. So, I guess, we don't have any "family traditions."

12. What do you do for vacations?

We go trecking.

13. What are your hobbies?

Trecking, reading and theater. I also love Indian classical music.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will enlarge the scope of women's shelter. We could build hostels for female students, hospitals, workshops to train women, schools...

I will also try to effect attitude changes that I talked about earlier, by starting campaigns through theater and videos.

15. What do you fear?

I fear for my husband's health. (Nandu had recently gone through a serious illness.)

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

Anywhere. I am at peace with myself.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

A person who is happy with herself/himself is beautiful. It comes through their actions, speech and expression.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

If you are in good health and do good work for a thriving cause, that would be good life.

It is hard to single out society's perception of good life. Different strata in society have different perceptions. For some it might be having a job, others it will be owning a house. It depends on socio-economic groups.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My personality, thoughts and brain.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

Yes. In every respect. Women get the inferior treatment in education, domestic life, cultural

development, political opportunities. Women are hired last and fired first. Our constitution gives equal rights to women, but they do not really get equal legal rights. Just look at the Hindu Divided Family Act. A female does not get equal share of inherited property. The same is true in the Parsi, Muslim and Christian communities in India. Women are not given due respect or rights.

Sadasivan works as a mahout in the Tiger Moon Resort in Rajasthan's Ranthambhor Forest. His formal education stopped after high school graduation (11th grade) when he left his native state of Kerala.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I will teach in an orphanage in the rural area.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: Nothing that I can think of!

Family: I will give them financial stability

Country: I will put more emphasis on educating the young kids.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: I worry about a death in the family.

Country: We will face more financial problems. India has freedom but not independence.

World: World War III

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I am afraid the world will face many problems. There will be much fighting.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

I don't see any positive changes in my country.

On the negative side there is so much corruption. Poor people are stuck in the cycle of poverty which breeds crime.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: It is filled with rich people with no financial problems. I hear that the literacy rate is 95% in the U.S.

Mexico: It is an independent country but has financial problems.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I think that I got good education because my teachers were very good. In India, the government does not take care of poor people so their education gets neglected. Rich people get all sorts of grants, and better education so they continue being rich.

8. Who are your heroes?

I used to admire Shakespeare, Carl Marx and Frederick Engals. But I am now disillusioned with all of them.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

In Kerala we live in a small village. We have a simple but large house. There are six room, a kitchen and an attached bathroom. My brother and three sisters live in the house with my parents.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

I have the kindest, most perfect family.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

We used to enjoy many festivals. But now I have moved away so that I can work and send money for my family.

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Now every time I go home for a visit that becomes our reason for celebration.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I save as much money as I can and every two to three years try to go home to visit my family.

13. What are your hobbies?

I love to read.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will spend it on the poor.

15. What do you fear?

Only humans!

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

Any places filled with trees and young children. Someplace where there are very few people.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Your heart is the most beautiful thing.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I will only achieve good life when I die. I know that you are surprised, but it is true. I am facing problems daily. I don't envision any release. Society has unending expectations. If you are poor, you are a non person. Society only relates to the rich.

19. What is your most prized possession?

Love.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

No. Not that I feel myself. I believe that men and women are equal.

Jeetlal is a carpenter. He came to Bombay from his village in Uttar Pradesh, as an apprentice to a cousin, fifteen years ago. He had just completed the seventh grade and was only twelve years old. He lives in Bombay in a large room with seven other carpenters like him from his native village. At twenty seven, he has sponsored an eleven year old cousin from the village and is teaching him the ropes of being a good carpenter. On days he gets work, Jeetlal makes about 300 rupees. He saves as much money as he can so he can send money to his family in the village. We asked Jeetlal if he likes to live alone and away from his family in Bombay. He said that when he is in his village, he misses the fast life of Bombay and when he is in Bombay he wishes to be with his family.

More than anything in the world, Jeetlal would like to bring his family to Bombay. Unfortunately, with the astronomical costs of housing, it is only a pipe dream. Jeetlal's marriage was arranged by his family. He did not even see his wife until the wedding day. He knows that he is lucky because he really likes his wife. "Some men are disappointed with their parents choice," he said, "then they end up leaving their wife or send her back to her parents." Jeetlal's family owns a little farm that his father cultivates. As long as his father is able to care for the farm, Jeetlal has to stay in Bombay to earn as much money as possible so that his family can have a

better life.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

If I had enough money I would help people who are sick and would travel.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

I don't think about these things.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Whatever comes, it will be taken care of. You can't project into the future. We will face it as it happens.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

World has progressed in the last twenty years, and I assume will continue to progress in the same proportion in the next twenty. That's how the world works!

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: If a human being tries hard, they progress. My country is trying hard and I assume has gotten better.

Negative: Terrorism is spreading all across India and is hurting innocent people.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I have heard that the people in America are nice. United states is ahead of all the other countries because it is advanced in terms of money and

machinery.

Mexico: I don't know.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

It was so long ago, I don't remember.

8. Who are your heroes?

My mother and my father.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

My family lives in a village in Uttar Pradesh. We have two rooms that are shared by my parents, wife, myself and our three children. I live in Bombay for eight months and go to the village for four months during harvesting season to help my father on the farm.

In Bombay, I live in a 20'x20' room with seven other men. We are all cousins from the same village. All of us try to work hard and save money to send to our families. We help each other to get jobs. When we do good work, our customers spread the word and then we get more jobs. When one person does not have a job, he does the cooking. There is a small area in the room where we do cooking. We share a community bathroom down the road.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

You get by with what God gave you. We are all happy. Since I am away from home much of the time, my children communicate mostly with their mother. They are a bit frightened if I say, "No, you can not do that!,"

because I am not there most of the time.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

In village they celebrate all the festivals. Diwali and Holi are two that I try to attend every year. Then the whole family is together.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I go to my village and spend time with my family.

13. What are your hobbies?

When I get some time off, I rest.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will travel and help sick people.

15. What do you fear?

Nothing at this point. I guess if I am sitting quietly and someone comes from behind, I will be afraid.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

Mostly when I go home to my village. In Bombay I don't always get work and then I get worried that I would not be able to support my family. So I am at peace when I work and not at peace when I have no work.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

It does not matter what a person looks like, they should be beautiful from the inside.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I guess that I am an average person and an average person always wants more. I really don't know what it

would take to satisfy me. I have never thought about what society may consider the good life.

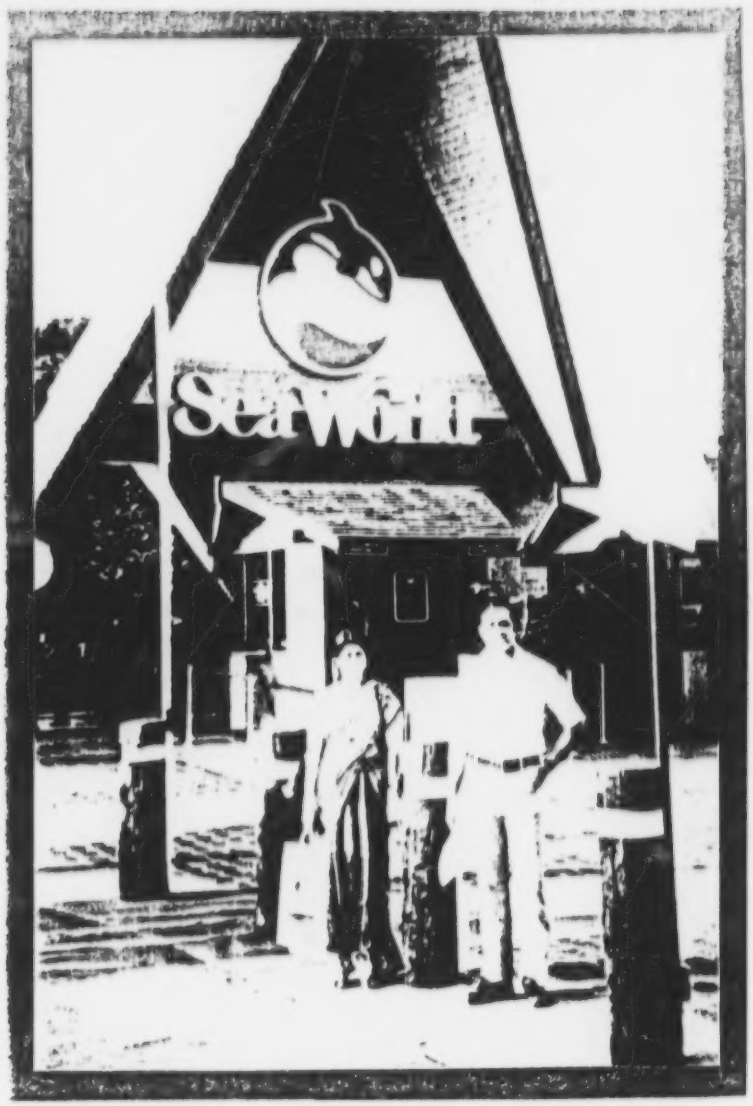
19. What is your most prized possession?

I don't know.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

In Uttar Pradesh, where I come from, there are gender differences in the villages but not in the cities. In the villages people feel bad when a girl child is born. Not that they kill the girl babies, may be one of two out of a hundred girls born may be killed. I myself have daughters and I like them. People send their daughters to school til about 7th grade, then they are expected to work at home. Most girls in my village (Jounpur: population about 200) are married by the age seventeen.

[illegible] is the Indian counterpart of the middle-class American career woman. She is an articulate, informed mother of a four year old daughter who also has a master's degree in Chemistry and does research on explosives for the Indian government.



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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I would take the time I need, to seriously reflect on and consider resigning from my job and become a full time mother.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would like to be more self confident.

Family: I like my family. I don't want to change anything.

Country: I would like to see a stable government in India.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: None that I can envision.

Country: I think the religious problems between the Hindus and Muslims will worsen.

World: I am optimistic. I think the world as a whole will be more peaceful.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I think we will all look the same and have the same things.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Some of the food scarcities have been reduced.

Negative: Religious separations have grown wider.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: Whenever someone mentions U.S. I think of my brother and his family who have settled there.

Mexico: I think Mexico is quite similar to India.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

In my school they taught us things other than academics like housekeeping and sewing, which was helpful.

I feel the school day was too long. Our school hours were 11:15-5:15. I got home around 6:15. There was not enough time to play.

8. Who are your heroes?

Indira Gandhi and John F. Kennedy.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

Our 1100 sq. ft. apartment is fairly large according to Indian standard. We have a kitchen, living room, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. My family includes my husband, our daughter Sonali and my mother who lives with us. My in-laws live about fifteen miles away.

(Jyotsna's father-in-law passed away within two months after this interview was taken. Her mother-in-law now also stays with them.)

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

I am supported by my husband and his parents in any decision that I make. Consequently, I feel free to

express my opinions.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

Every year we try to go on a vacation to some hill station.

12. What do you do for vacations?

We like to travel. We have taken trips all across India. In 1982 we visited my brother in the United States for two months and went camping all across the west coast with his family.

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I don't know.

15. What do you fear?

Accident or death in the family.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

I feel at peace in Ganesh temple and in gardens.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

When you love a person, that makes them beautiful.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

For me, if I can have peace of mind, that will be good life. In India, society thinks that owning a home, having a son and lots of money constitutes the good life.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My daughter, Sonali.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

There is gender difference in all strata of society in India. Most women can not make any decisions by themselves. The husband expects to have the last word. Women are not paid the same salary as a man doing the same work. Women can not go out by themselves at night. Women shoulder the major responsibility for rearing the children but not for making decisions concerning the children.

C1

This spirited young woman is very passionate about the plight of prostitutes who live in the area. Madina lives in a very crowded area of Pune in the state of Maharashtra. The few block area around her apartment is the "Red Light District" of Pune. In fact the family keeps the only window on the back street locked so that they will not hear the screams of the young prostitutes being beaten by their pimps. Madina spends her spare time working with prostitutes, trying to get them to come to the free medical clinic across the street.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I love doing social work. I want to understand people. I want to find out what makes people happy or sad. I want to help people.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I need to learn to be cautious. I talk to and trust everybody I meet. People take advantage of that!

Family: I like my family just the way it is.

Country: I would like to see all the castes in Muslim community to come together and work for the common good.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

I can not think of any.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

(Madina could not articulate her feelings. Her brother, who was in the house, shared his feelings. Madina's brother felt that people will become less caring. It will be a 'dog eat dog' world. Madina agreed with her brother.)

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Quality of life of the average man has improved. There are nicer apartments. These old houses in Pune are being torn down and people are building

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modern flats. They are widening and fixing roads.

Negative: I don't see an end to this inflation.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I have seen Americans who come to visit India. They are kind to children and animals on the street. So I guess they are just like us.

Mexico: I don't know anything about it.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I was in Urdu Middle School. I loved History. I like to study the past. I liked writing essays. I remember that in eighth grade we had to write an essay on "What would you do if you became the Prime Minister?"

I hated Math in school. It's such a terrible subject!

8. Who are your heroes?

Our late Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. I also admire my older brother.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live in three rooms. (The three rooms were very small and in a row. The entrance was through a 6'x8' kitchen that held a sectioned off bathroom for taking showers. Madina's brother was taking a bath and could see and hear us when he stood up. We interviewed in the middle room which was about 8'x8' and held a bed. Next to the middle room was another dark room which Madina said was smaller.)

We all live here with my father. My brother is married and has a baby. Then there is me and my older sister. We

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have another older sister who is married and lives upstairs.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

We are an open family. I sometimes fight with Rashida (older sister), but not much. We all have great respect for our father. He is open minded and will allow me to go out with men that he approves. He does not allow me to work outside the home. I will never go against his wishes. Even my brother always does what our father approves.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

We celebrate all the Muslim festivals like Id and Ramzan.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I go to a garden to see if I can take any cuttings to start at home. I don't go to movies and parties.

13. What are your hobbies?

I like to paint and make stuffed animals and dolls.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I do not want this to happen. I am happy with what I have here. I earn my own keep and live within my means. If I get a lot of money, it will create bad feelings between my brother and sisters. I just don't want to get too much money. I will not accept it.

15. What do you fear?

Nothing.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In a Darga. (Muslim place of worship)

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Someone with a good figure, nice nose and eyes.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I don't think that being married and having children will necessarily bring me happiness; helping people who are not as fortunate will make me happy. I want to stay with mentally handicapped children and help them. That would be good life.

Who knows what society thinks is "good life?"

19. What is your most prized possession?

My sewing talent. I can support myself and survive anywhere I go using my talent.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

Yes. Look at the women I work with! They are abused by their pimps. Of course, not all men are bad. Good men like my father and brother help and respect women.

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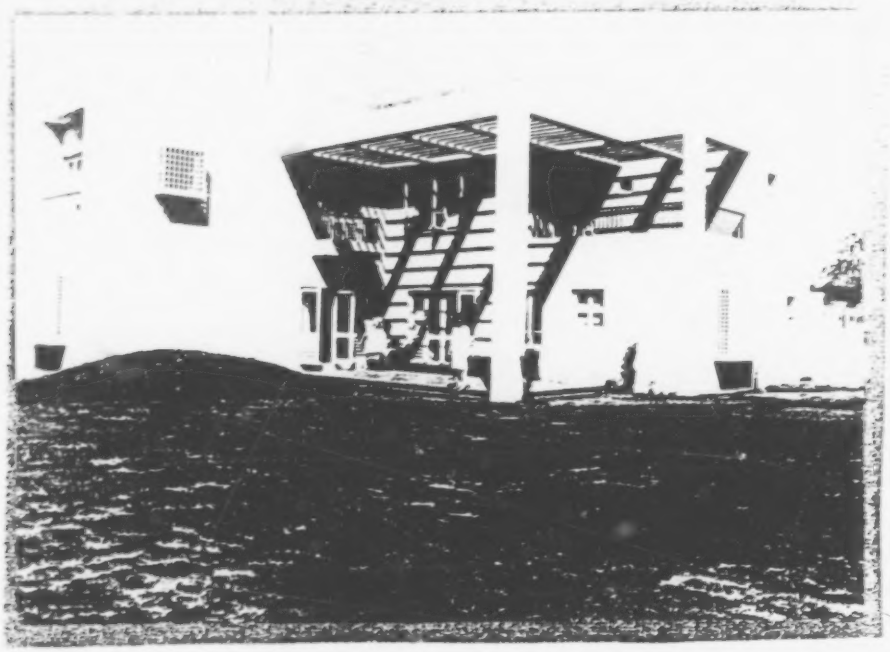
Mangala Narlikar lives on the campus of the University of Pune in the state of Maharashtra. Mangala was raised in urban Bombay and received her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Bombay. She has written a book for fifth and sixth grade students that helps make Mathematics interesting. Now at the age of forty eight, Mangala teaches Mathematics at the University of Pune on a part time basis. Her husband, Dr. Jayant Narlikar is the director of the new Astrophysics department at the University.



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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I would read a lot and go for walks through my garden.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would become more organized.

Family: I would make all the members of my family as independent as they can be!

Country: I would like to see us use our natural resources better. I wish the importance given to the caste system would vanish. I would encourage people to take pride in their work instead of just philosophizing.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: The inevitable disintigration as a unit as our children move away to seek highter education and business opportunities.

Country: Our ever increasing population.

World: Increasing population and unwise use of natural resources.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I couldn't begin to predict.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

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I believe that the technical and scientific advances in our country have been positive. On the negative side, the caste and religious politics is getting worse.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

I think of the United States as a country that lures our bright children away.

I feel that many Mexican people look like us and I love their food!

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

Well, I did learn some practical things like sewing in school. Unfortunately, not all my teachers were good. There was too much stress on crammed learning and original thinking was not encouraged.

8. Who are your heroes?

Mr. Anna Hajare who single handedly reformed the village of Ralegandshindi with active participation. Mr. Babasaheb Amte for his work with lepers. Many great mathematicians.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

For about eighteen years we lived as a joint family in a small two bedroom flat. My mother, mother-in-law, and father-in-law lived with us along with our three daughters. Now with Jayant's new position, for the last two years we have moved to this huge house in Pune and there are only five of us rattling in it. My father-in-law

passed away last year. Our two older daughters are studying engineering and computer science at the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay and live in the dorm. So now its just my husband, me, our ten year old daughter, my mother and mother-in-law living in this two story house with beautiful garden.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

Well, the girls are more open with me than they are with their father since he has to make decisions that they may not like!

11. What are some of your family traditions?

On each family member's birthday, we serve food in silver plates and treat that person like a king or queen.

12. What do you do for vacations?

We don't take vacations as often as we should. Usually we travel and visit relatives.

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading, stitching and gardening.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will travel all over the world.

15. What do you fear?

Old age. I wonder how I will cope with it. I don't want to become dependent on any one.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

When I am laying in bed and reading.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Beauty lies in how a person communicates and interacts with other human beings.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

For me, good life consists of good food, good clothes, good place to live and interesting work that you enjoy doing. Society at large is more hung up on status symbols such as cars and house etc.

19. What is your most prized possession?

No answer.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

Yes. Males are treated better all across India. Boys are valued more than girls in every field.

Mihir is a fourteen year old tenth grader. He is an only child and lives with his parents in Bombay. His mother is a very innovative architect and his father is an engineer. He has a very close and large extended family in Bombay.

1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I will read a lot of books, play a lot of cricket, soccer and rugby.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: Nothing. I like the way I am now.

Family: My family is ok. There is no need for a change.

Country: India is so dirty. I would like to see it cleaned up.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: None that I can think of.

Country and the world: Over population will be a growing problem.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I believe that the world will be more progressed and more peaceful.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Our space technology and science is more progressed and exciting.

Negative: Every kind of pollution is increasing in cities. Terrorism is on the rise.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States?

Mexico?

United States: I think of clean streets, many numbers and varieties of cars.

Mexico: I think of the Olympic games. I really don't know anything else.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

The best thing about education in India is that it is available to all citizens.

There are many things I don't like. We are very overcrowded. We do not have a play-ground. No practical activities are offered to students. We are expected to accept everything our teachers say and not ask any questions. Thankfully, I can ask anything to my parents. The curriculum at our school is really not very challenging.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We have two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and bathroom with W/C. I am an only child. Most of the year it's just the three of us, myself and my parents. My grandparents come to stay with us for about four months every year.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

I guess you can say that we are a close-knit family with modern and progressive thoughts.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

We are not into traditions.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I visit relatives. Play with friends, go to outdoor camp and read lots of books.

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading, chess and playing any outdoor game.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will try to get playgrounds for all the schools in India.

15. What do you fear?

Nothing at present.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In the hills and jungles.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Their thoughts is what separates great people from the rest. I think that is what makes a person beautiful.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

At the age of fourteen, good life to me means being somewhere out in the nature with lots of books and many good friends. I don't know what society considers the good life.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My books and coin collections.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

It depends. In some regions women are treated worse

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than men than in some other regions. For example, the terrible traditions of "sati" is not as hated in rural areas of Rajasthan as it is in most of India. I guess there is more gender difference in rural areas than in the cities.

Priya lives with her parents and her little brother Akshay. Priya's mother, Shyama is a doctor and teaches Physiology in B.J. Medical School in Pune. Her father, Uday, is also a doctor. He is the medical officer in a large firm and manages to find time for his private practice.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I will take a vacation and enjoy life. I would love to sleep, lie around the house, eat what I want.....I would also travel to other countries around the world.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

I would change nothing about myself.

As for the family, I wish that our house was not so big. I would want a closely packed small house filled with carpets and sofa sets.

I would change the parliament of India. They are the cause of all the problems in our country.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: I worry about how the inflation will impact us.

Country: There are many that I see. Inflation, pollution, deforestation, and animal extinction of endangered species, just to name a few!

World: I don't know.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

There will be no open spaces left. The whole world will be filled with buildings. India will be so over-populated that we will be just a carpet of people so that no one could move!

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

On the positive side, we are more industrialized and a little richer. The caste system is not as bad anymore, people are more willing to mix with other castes.

Over-population is a big minus point for India's development.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I visited my uncle in United States when I was nine years old. I remember junk food, weird clothes and fantastic basketball games. People watch a lot of movies in U.S.

Mexico: hats, chiles and pesos.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I believe that I am getting good education. Our teachers make sure that we are well prepared.

I detest the worthless details that we have to memorize. I mean, what use is it to know the height of certain temples in India?

8. Who are your heroes?

Ben Johnson, Viv Richard (captain of West Indies cricket team), **and Sachin Tendulkar** (19 year old Indian cricket superstar).

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

Compared to Indian standards, we have a huge house (about 3400 sq. ft.) **On the main floor there are three very large**

bedrooms and three bathrooms. Sitting room, family/TV room, dining room and kitchen. The french doors in the family and dining rooms open onto the patio and the garden. Upstairs there is an extra room and a very large balcony. I share a bedroom with my little brother. Our grandmother (my father's mother) lives with us for about four months our of the year. When she is here, she shares the room with us. I wish she lived here all the time. Since she has three sons, she lives with each of them for part of the year. My uncle and his American wife come to visit with their little girl almost every year. My uncle stays for a couple of weeks and my aunt then stays on for another month. My parents have the bedroom by the garden since my father loves it so much.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

My parents are very busy people. Mother is home by about 5:30 every evening. Father leaves for work after we go to school. Then he comes home around 6:00 p.m. He has to leave again to see his patients at about 7:30. So we are together as a family for only about an hour or so. Both of them are tired and mother wants us to be very quiet so we won't bother our dad. I guess the atmosphere in the house is very tense when both our parents are home since we all try so hard to make sure they feel rested.

I must admit that I am able to communicate very

openly with both my parents. I feel free to speak with them on any issue.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

Most of our family traditions involve family gatherings. We celebrate all the religious holidays. Annually on my grandfather's death anniversary we gather as a family and make offerings to God.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I do not have the same vacation as my parents. During our school breaks, I join clubs and play a lot of games. I watch movies on video and read as many books as I can!

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading, playing basketball, badminton, field hockey and running races.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will spend a part of it on myself and the other part I will donate to orphanages in villages.

15. What do you fear?

WAR: in India and around the world.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In the bathroom....only place where I can be by myself.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

A person's eyes.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I would be happy if I am working in a profession that I love. I want to earn money so that I can support myself and not be dependent on anyone else.

I believe that society values money, clothes and jewelry much more than I do.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My old running shoes. They are too small for me now, but I have won many races when I used to wear them.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

Unfortunately, YES! Boys are given far too much importance in India. This is even worse in poor people. Because in that class people HAVE to give dowery for their girls, so people are unhappy if they have girls. They look at boys as a way to get dowery. They don't educate their daughters. These girls stay home and work. Then they are married off at a young age and work for their husbands. In middle class the gender difference is not as bad. I am a girl and my parents will allow me to go in any field of my choice.

Ramu is in 11th grade. He is sixteen years old. Ramu's family includes his grandparents, parents and one brother. They live in Pune, a large city in Maharashtra.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I love cats. I would get as many cats as I can.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would study more.

Family: I feel my parents are far too strict. One day I was five minutes late, and my father refused to let me in the house. He said since I like being with my friend, I should sleep in my friend's house.

Country: I would bring one year of limited dictatorship in India.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: As we grow up the family will grow apart. The closeness we feel now will fade.

Country AND World: People all over will become so machine oriented that there will be no room left for human emotions.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

Everything will be run by machines, but still people will have no leisure time. Even oceans will be reduced because people will be building on them!

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Our many technical advances are impressive.

Negative: In the old days our villages were autonomous. Now good systems like the barter system have broken up. People have to leave villages and come to crowded cities. That ruins the quality of life in both the cities and villages.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: It is a modern country. Everyone is rich. I don't think that Americans have good values. They are striving to make a name for themselves at any price. Take Guineses Book of World Records. An American will jump twenty thousand times on a pogo stick just to have his name printed in that book. In India people aim towards improving culture when they try something unique. e.g. trying to write the entire Gita on a grain of rice.

Mexico: I know nothing about Mexico.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

Up to the fourth grade my education was excellent. I remember one special teacher even in the ninth grade. He was very strict, but he cared. He used to make us write one good thought on the back of our lesson book every day. One good thought was written on the blackboard. We were asked to think about these thoughts for that day. I got a lot out of that. He also organized a play on his own time.

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On the other hand, with the affirmative action program, some very undeserving people become teachers. I don't mind BC (backward castes) people becoming teachers, if they are qualified and are good. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Some of our teachers sleep in the teachers' lounge all day. I believe that my education is really suffering due to this policy.

8. Who are your heroes?

Garibaldi (radical Italian freedom fighter during WWII),

Savarkar (freedom fighter for India).

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

I live with my parents, grandparents and my younger brother in a 550 sq.ft. flat. We have two rooms and a kitchen. There is a small loft for storage where I study.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

My mother and father are...well O.K. My grandfather has travelled quite a bit and has liberal ideas. My grandmother is very traditional.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

We usually go for a trip to a hill station.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I read a lot and play soccer.

13. What are your hobbies?

I collect jokers from sets of play cards. I have over 500 different jokers.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do

with it?

I would invest it.

15. What do you fear?

I fear that my friends may violate my trust, like if I tell them a secret, they may share it with others.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In my room with my cats. I have nine cats.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

The way a person behaves. The way a person talks.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I hope to some day own my home. I want to have a comfortable home with a large joint family. Society just thinks of all the creature comforts and lots of money when they think of a good life.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My own opinions.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

None. Especially in big cities. Even in villages the difference between treatments of men and women is getting better. Sometimes mothers-in-law feel bad if they don't have grandsons. But the new generation does not care if they have sons or daughters.

Satej is a fourteen year old ninth grader. He lives with this parents in Bombay. His mother works as one of the tax commissioners and his father owns a small business.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I would love to travel. I want to see my country first and then go abroad and visit other countries.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I am afraid that I am too dominating. I would like to change that.

Family: My immediate family is perfect. I just wish that my extended family was more open with each other. Most of them are very reserved.

Country: I would like to remove poverty, control the population and curb the inflation.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: With growing inflation and shrinking incomes, we may face financial difficulties.

Country: There are so many. Illiteracy, pollution and poverty are probably the top three.

World: Pollution is a global problem.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

There will be much scientific progress. With better telecommunication, the world will continue to shrink and friendships around the world will be enhanced.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Since the independence, we have

technologically progressed a lot.

Negative: The corruption is increasing in all strata of society.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: It is supposed to be scientifically progressed and beautiful country. I have heard that there is a lot of crime in cities.

Mexico: I have never read or heard much about Mexico.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I am afraid that our education system is steadily going down hill. Teachers continue to stick to the old traditions. For example, computer technology is sweeping the world, but we do not have access to many computers in our schools.

8. Who are your heroes?

Our late Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the former head of USSR, Mr. Gorbachev.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live in the basic 550 sq.ft. Bombay flat. We have two rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. I am an only child, so its just me and my parents.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

My parents are my friends. We have absolutely no barriers. I talk openly about anything with them.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

We like to celebrate all our birthdays by going out on the town.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I read, sign up for as many activities as I can and mostly just get bored!

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading and stamp collecting. I also love music and listen to anything from classical to pop.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

First I will make sure that my family is comfortable. Then I will give money to people who want to improve themselves by working hard. Some money I will use for progress in my country.

15. What do you fear?

Nuclear weapons. I really want to see total elimination of all the nuclear weapons around the world.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

I guess at any hill station with pleasant climate, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

Personality, honesty, the way a person carries himself/herself and their knowledge.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

Good life for me is somewhere away from Bombay where it is peaceful, calm, quiet and life is slow.

Society is only running after money.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My parents and then my country.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

In cities there is more equality. In small villages women are still not treated as equals to men. In many communities women can not even show their face. But there is progress in this field in India. Women are starting to succeed in many fields that were closed to them before.

Dr. S.L. Sharma along with his wife shared their bereavement from Trivandrum to Bangalore. Dr. Sharma is 55 years old. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology. Presently he is the professor of Sociology at the Punjab University in Chandighar.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I would complete the book I am writing on hypocrisy.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would like to be more patient.

Family: I would like to make it more peaceful.

Country: I would like to do something about our population and the poverty in India.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: I can not imagine any problems in this department.

Country: I am afraid we are going to continue sinking into this debt trap. When you are so beholden financially to other countries, it slowly changes into political dependence. It is just another kind of colonization.

World: If the United States continues their economic exploitation of other countries, the world will soon become uni-polar and that is dangerous.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

We will continue to be as bewildering as we are today. Actually I think the world is becoming more humane and there is greater awareness of social justice. On the other hand we are becoming hyprocrites in our interpretation of social justice. Look at the role U.S.

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played in the Gulf War. It proved that "Might is Right."

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: I am happy about the prosperity of post-independent India. I am glad that we opted for democracy and have carried on with it, with a shift towards socialism as opposed to communism. We could have become a theocratic state, but we avoided that!

Negative: Rise of poverty and growing slums, corruption, glaring inequities between the haves and the have nots, decline in quality of leadership, hypocrisy of elders and public leaders.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I think of the experiment in cultural pluralism and open door policy that they have undertaken.

Mexico: Their status as a poor colony of the U.S.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I hail from a very small village. I am an only child. My father could have insisted that I stay home and support them rather than leave the village for higher education. He did not do that. He encouraged me to learn more. My good break in education came almost by chance. In India, you have to choose the Liberal Arts or Science track right out of high school. I had no idea what I wanted to

be. My uncle just happened to take me to a Liberal Arts college and I joined that school. It turned out to be the right move for me since I have enjoyed my field of study.

8. Who are your heroes?

I have none.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

Since the University provides the housing, we live in a large house compared to average Indians. We have three children. Our daughter is married and lives near by, which allows us to visit our six month old grandchild all the time. Our two sons live at home with us.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

We believe in open communication and democratic ethos in family. Everyone has the freedom to speak their mind and go their own ways.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

Our family always takes morning and evening meal together. We wait for each other. We are also together for the evening worship.

12. What do you do for vacations?

We go sightseeing, as we are now....or just relax.

13. What are your hobbies?

I like to visit my friends every evening. I play badminton, swim and read.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

Beyond a certain point, money becomes useless. We don't need as much money as we think. God has given me everything I want so a large sum of money is of no use to me.

15. What do you fear?

American neo-colonialism.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In my hometown, Chandighar.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

A person who has created a balance between physical and psychological goodness is beautiful.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

Good life means a person has realized his/her potential in terms of means and motivation. Then you are at peace with your innerself. This is what I think.

In today's society material prosperity is valued. Society thinks that when you have wealth and power, prestige will follow and then becomes the good life.

19. What is your most prized possession?

All the books that I have written.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

I don't think there is any overt gender difference. But if you ask women they will say that preference is given for a son over a daughter. In course of rearing, more attention is given to the diet of a son. Sons get more

social freedom. You have to pay dawery for a daughter during her marriage. So, I must admit, that there is gender difference in India.

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1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I will build up the Communist Party of India into a stronger unit.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would like to become more efficient.

Family: You don't change your family. They are who they are.....and always will be!

Country: I would irradicate corruption and change attitudes of our people towards women.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: As I work towards the party goals, I worry about the violence towards me by the opposition. Political violence in India is growing all the time.

Country: I am concerned about the demographics of India. The constant movement of people from villages to the cities is also troublesome.

World: Overpopulation will be a growing problem. Ecological problems will continue getting worse.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I believe that the ecological imbalance will get out of hand. At the same time global awareness of the problem will grow and it will become a race between the helpers and the destroyers of the planet.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: None. It's all going downhill!

Negative: Religious fanaticism, corruption, there seems to be a basic intolerance for differences.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: When I visited the United States, (Sukumar's brother lives in N.J.), **the thing that struck me was the homogeneous nature of the society. It was all very uniform. I was disturbed by the discrimination leveled towards blacks and poor whites. I also became aware of the technological gap between the U.S. and my country.**

Mexico: Big hats, haciendas, Viva Zapata.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

The good part was that I learned to read and write. Unfortunately, schools here don't connect you with real life. The curriculum in school did not relate to India, it was developed abroad and did not seem relevant.

8. Who are your heroes?

I don't have any. I have never had any heroes.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

Well, I live in several places. Sometimes, I sleep at the party headquarters. I share a flat with a couple with a small baby. I sleep in one room (about 8'x8'). I have a

cot and a clothesline. I generally snack out or eat with friends.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

I am afraid I can not communicate with my father. Even as a youngster, the communication between us was zero. Other than that, we are a very affectionate and open family. Although my mother, brother and sister were unhappy with my choice to quit my high paying job and join the party, they did not reject me as a person. So I can say that we are a very friendly and close family.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

My parents are rather secular. Religion and rituals were not at all stressed in our house.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I have never taken a vacation. I don't feel the need to take a vacation. I am so excited with what I am doing; there are new experiences every day!

13. What are your hobbies?

Reading, trecking. My hobbies shift. For a while I was fascinated with computers, then I was playing a musical instrument. Now that I am writing a Science textbook, I am getting really interested in Physics.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will use it for the Communist Party projects. I have no interest in material possessions, so I have no use for

money.

15. What do you fear?

Religious fanaticism.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

When I sleep.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

There are so many factors, I can not really name them.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I think that good life will mean that I have been able to build up the party as I dream it, ideal equality for all.

If I can build my dream society, then society at large will think that it is a good life.

19. What is your most prized possession?

Nothing.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

Yes. There is discrimination against women in every phase of life.

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Sulochana is a gutsy lady. Although she had no formal education, life has taught her a lot! She was married at the tender age of fifteen. Her husband has no vices, he is just lazy and has never held a job or done anything worthwhile in his life. Sulochana is the bread-winner in the family. The couple has seven daughters. Sulochana's mother-in-law was very disappointed in her inability to bear a son and she was beaten by her in-laws and her husband every time a new daughter was born. Sulochana kept the household going by working as a maid in other peoples' houses. She made sure that all her daughters were educated. In fact, she very proudly told us that her fourth daughter just graduated from college. Her three oldest daughters are married and at the age of 45, Sulochana has five grandchildren!

Sulochana did not claim to have any respect for her husband. We asked her why she stayed with him, supporting such a lazy bum who just laid around the house. According to Sulochana, it gives her a respectable place in society. She pointed to the 'bindi' on her forehead and said, "Being married gives me protection. When people see this, they know that there is someone behind me. It protects me from the bad people in society."

Sulochana is up every morning at 4:30 a.m. By 5:30 she is working at a temple near by, cleaning and washing the

floors. Other than the temple, she works for nine households, cleaning pots and pans and washing clothes. By 12:30 in the afternoon, she is home again, cooking for her family. In the afternoon she takes a nap for about an hour. Around 4:00 p.m. she makes the second round of all the houses and does evening chores. She is done for the day by 6:00 p.m. Its back home to cook, clean, watch some TV (a purchase she is very proud of) and goes to sleep around 10:30 p.m.

Recently, Sulochana has become involved in organizing for the rights of abused women. She is a member of a woman's group that tries to get financial support for women who are discarded by their husbands.

1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

I would play.... swim, climb trees, play all night long with my friends.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I would go into politics. I would work on the committee that protects rights of women that are rejected by their husbands. These men have responsibilities to their wives and they must fulfill them.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: I am afraid that my daughters will hold me back from fulfilling my political ambitions. I went to Delhi, along with 5000 other women to participate in a march. My daughters were so afraid. They begged me not to go. They think that I will get hurt or killed in a riot.

Country: Inflation is a big problem for us. Although we walk in marches, the government ignores our demands.

World: Lack of stability around the world will get worse.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

Every one will become impersonal. Clothes will change. (While talking to Sulochana, it became obvious that her world image was limited to her immediate surroundings.)

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in

your country? Negative?

Positive: None that I can see.

Negative: There are a lot of tension in families. TV is not a good influence either.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I have heard the name. I think it would be nice to visit. I really have no mental image.

Mexico: I have never heard that name before. You learn something new every day!

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I never went to school. I would have loved to learn but my parents never sent me.

8. Who are your heroes?

Ms. Mrunalinee Gore (leader in womens' movement).

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live in one room (8'x10'). We share a communal bathroom with the remaining families in our row. Nine people live in that room. Our four unmarried daughters, one married daughter with her husband, myself and my husband. Recently, I have given shelter to one niece who was rejected by her husband. Her husband claims to have never married her. (Sulochana invited us to her house for tea. The tiny room was spotless with shiny pots and pans. The TV had a prominent place in one corner. There was a make shift loft on one side of the room. The neighbors brought three chairs for us to sit on.)

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

Well, I am in charge. Thirty years of doing nothing has affected my husband's mind. He does nothing. The girls depend on me to make all the decisions.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

We celebrate the Ganesh and Gauri festivals. (religious festivals in India)

12. What do you do for vacations?

I don't have holidays. I work seven days a week. Once in a while, I visit my married daughters.

13. What are your hobbies?

I crochet curtains and handkerchiefs.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will buy gold with all the money. Then I will be set for life and will not depend on anyone else.

15. What do you fear?

Nothing.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

At the temple where I work. Any time I feel unsettled, I go to the temple and sit listening to the story-tellers that tell stories about Gods and Goddesses.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

I have never thought about it.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

I don't know.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My personal independence.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

No. I can do anything that I choose. (Sulochana could not distinguish between her self-image and society's image of women.)

Sukumar Datta is a man in [illegible] at 40 he is a child of who has committed himself to a cause he has not to owed the advantaged path in his life.

After graduating from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, Sukumar joined the merchant marines as a marine engineer. But he felt restless and unfulfilled, so after nineteen months he quit his post and decided to follow his heart. He joined the Communist Party in 1977 and has been working for his beliefs since that time.

Sukumar has kept his sense of humor, calling his party a rudderless ship in the wake of the Soviet disintegration. Presently, he is writing books for young students that will make science more practical and accessible.

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Mr. Ramesh Thakur is a very gentle and soft-spoken man of forty five. He works as the head caterer for Raja-Rani Patil Tours in Maharashtra. Mr. Thakur has worked with the Patils for the past thirty two years. He is on the tour for six to seven months out of the year, not being able to see his family. His wife lives in a village with their three children.

On the tours Mr. Thakur is responsible for making sure that the patrons are well fed. He supervises a staff of about six people. Mr. Patil is a fair but exacting employer.

As the approximately two week tours move from city to city in India, Mr. Thakur, with his staff, is there to help with the luggage. He buys all the food rations and supervises the cooking, serving and cleaning. This gentle, smiling man rarely loses his temper in all the chaos.

1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

Mr. Patil will never be able to spare me. Even if he could, Mr. Patil's younger son valŭes me so much that he will come to my house and drag me away. I just can not imagine doing anything else. This is my life.

(This question cast a true terror in Mr. Thakur. He could not imagine ever being free of his responsibilities. Even continuous reassurance that we were only talking in the hypothetical sense when we said; "What if Mr. Patil said,' Ramesh, I will take care of your family for a year. You go and do whatever you want'," Mr. Thakur could only think of the time that Mr. Patil would not need him anymore.)

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: Nothing.

Family: My older son has a heart problem. He can not work. If his health was better, may be I will not feel so responsible for working until I die.

World: I can not imagine anything that I can change.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: My son is sick. But I don't worry because Mr. Patil is so good to me. I had worked for him for thirty two years. He is very fair and I know that he will help me and take care of me in time of need. As long as I am healthy, I can look after my family.

Country: I worry about the inflation. Prices keep

skyrocketing. Poor people like us have a hard time.

World: I really have no contact with the world. I have never been outside of my country. I have traveled in the North India, Nepal and Goa in the past thirty years, but never abroad. So I don't know what problems the world might face.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I am a simple man. I can not imagine these things.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: Day to day life for common man is better now. Thirty years ago, I used to cook for the tour on little coal stoves. Now we can just turn on cooking gas.

Negative: The inflation keeps getting worse.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: Abhijit (Mr. Patil's son) visits U.S. on business. He told me that in America the salaries are very large but everything costs more than what you can manage on your seemingly large salary.

Mexico: I don't know.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I went to school up to the fifth grade. I really liked school. But I had to quit because I was needed at home. We were very poor. I had to take the buffalo to the field and milk them. There was so much work to be done.

8. Who are your heroes?

I have two heroes. Mr. Patil, my employer, is one. I trust him completely. He always tells me, "Ramesh, anytime you have a problem, come to me. My door is always open for you." As a child, I also admired our village council head. He was a decent man who told young children about the value of hard work.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

We live in a two room flat. One room serves as kitchen and the other is a living room. We used both rooms at night to sleep. There is also a loft for storage.

We have three children. Two sons and a daughter. One of my sons graduated from high school and is working. Our daughter is in the 9th grade. Our third son has a heart problem and is at home. He can not go to school.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

When I am on tour, my wife looks after the household and makes all the decisions. But when I am home, I am the head of the household. They all look up to me and expect me to make all the decisions. We are an open family. We discuss every issue openly. Once I make the decision, no one in the family ever questions it.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

When I am at home, we always try to eat dinner together. About three times every month, I try to buy something really expensive like meat. Both my wife and I

make sure that our children eat enough first. When they have eaten, I feel like I have eaten too.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I go home to be with my family.

13. What are your hobbies?

On tour I have no time for a hobby. When I go home, I am so tired that I relax, watch TV and sleep. Working poor like me don't have the luxury of developing hobbies in our life.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

I will stop working for the tour. I will make sure that my family is taken care of. I will buy every thing for the house that we don't have. I am trying to get a large sum of money. I buy a lottery ticket every week.

15. What do you fear?

I don't do anything bad so I am not afraid of anything. I always try to be kind to others and they always pay back by being kind to me.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

In my home. Our two rooms are a little set apart so we really don't have to be involved with neighbors. My children are very quiet like me. When I am home, they know that I need to rest. So I am at peace.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

People who are good to each other and treat others

well are beautiful.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

If I have some money, then I will buy a farm. That way for half of the year, the farm will feed us and for the other six months I will have enough money to support my family.

In society, there are good and bad people. The good people want good things and the bad people want bad things.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My trusting relationship with Mr. Patil, my employer.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

For myself, I believe in equality. People want sons because they will look after you in your old age. But I think having a daughter is important too.

Vazir has driven a tour bus for many years. He is on the road for most of the year. His large family lives in a village while he works for various tour companies.

A devout muslim, Vazir has two wives, as permitted by his religion, and thirteen children. When he married for the first time, he was 22 years old and married a woman his mother had chosen for him. His second marriage was to a woman he fell in love with some years later. That was the single mistake of his life, claims Vazir. His mother tried to talk him out of it and he really should have listened. His two wives live 40 miles apart and have never met.

Vazir worships his mother. He never speaks in a raised voice to his mother. All his salary is given to the mother who then hands most of it over to his elder wife. This way his mother never has to ask for money from her daughter-in-law. Family harmony is Vazir's priority.

Ever since he can remember, Vazir had to work to support his family. His father died when he was very young leaving him to take care of his mother and sisters. He never went to school, instead earned money by washing rikshas. He used to earn 20-25 rupees per day. After awhile he learned to drive a riksha. Then he became an assistant to truck drivers and eventually started driving tour buses.

We wondered how it was for a Muslim man to live in a

country where over 80% of the population is Hindu and religion permeates in every phase of life. Vazir feels that the common man does not feel the animosity towards the other religions that politicians talk about. He is free to go into a temple if he so wishes, since no one can tell him apart from a Hindu. He knows that many Hindus go in mosques to pray for their children when they get sick. He invites his Hindu friends to his house for Ramdan and is welcome in their house to celebrate Diwali.

1. If you could do anything you wanted next year, what would you most like to do?

You mean if my family is taken care of? I can not ever dream of it. It will never happen. Well...I would like to do "namaz" (muslim prayer) five times a day as prescribed by the Islamic Law. I would like to grow a beard.

2. If you could, what would you change about yourself, your family and your country?

Self: I do not know.

Family: I am not in mood for any more changes. Two wives and thirteen children are more than enough.

3. What are some of the problems (your family, your country, the world) face as we approach the year 2000?

Family: I am 49 years old. This is very hard schedule. Sometimes I have to drive this tour bus 28 hours at a stretch. How much longer do you think I can continue? My guess is not more than four or five more years. Hopefully I can buy a car that I can use as a taxi service and still earn some money. But I worry about how I can feed my family in five years.

Country: From what I can observe, even learned people have to pay under the table to get substandard jobs. What's the hope for the future? Why go to school?

World: I never went to school. Since I can not read papers, I have no idea what is happening in the rest of

the world.

4. What do you think the world will look like in 20 years?

I don't know.

5. What are some of the positive changes that have taken place in your country? Negative?

Positive: For rich people who make money, things have improved.

Negative: For the little guy like me things are bad. Let me give you an example. The government allows me to buy 4 kg. rice per month at a government subsidized price. My family needs at least 12 kg. rice every month. So what other choice do I have? I must buy rice on blackmarket and pay premium price. There is no escape.

6. What comes to mind when you think of the United States? Mexico?

United States: I have heard that in U.S. people are very competitive and they make very good things.

Mexico: I don't know anything about that.

7. What was good about your education? Not so good?

I never went to school. I had to take care of my mother and sisters at a very young age.

8. Who are your heroes?

I never thought about heroes. I only wanted a good family and blessings of God.

9. How many members live with you in the house? How large is the house?

In the village, we live in one large room that is about 9'x16'. Twelve of us live in that room. My mother, elder wife, myself and nine daughters. My oldest daughter is married. She is nineteen and just had a baby. My younger wife lives about 40 miles away with our three young children two boys and a girl. The youngest son is two years old.

10. Describe the atmosphere in your family.

My elder wife does not want to meet my younger wife. She does like the young kids though, and those children often visit their grandmother and play with their step-sisters. My younger wife is not as easy going as my elder wife and when I am with her, she is always complaining. When I go to the village, I try to spend a couple of days each week with her, but mostly I stay with my elder wife and my mother.

11. What are some of your family traditions?

I go home to celebrate Ramadam. We have a big festival at this time. The family gets together and has a feast.

12. What do you do for vacations?

I get about four or five days off each year. I spend a couple of days with each of my wives.

13. What are your hobbies?

All my life I have had to work. I don't have time for hobbies.

14. If you were given a large sum of money, what would you do

with it?

Why dream of something that will never happen?

15. What do you fear?

I only fear God.

16. Where do you feel most at peace?

You will be surprised. I am most at peace when I am driving the bus. You have so many things to think about. The traffic, the weather conditions, the responsibility for the passengers. You don't have time to think about anything else. When I am at home and have time to think, I see my children. I work every day of my life, try to live a good life abiding by my religion, and my children still have to wear old, torn clothes. I can not give them most things they deserve. How can I work any harder? It makes me feel sad when I look at them. It is better to stay away and work and not think about the children.

17. What is your concept of beauty?

There is beauty in everything.

18. What is the good life to you? What do you think society at large perceives as the good life?

To live by God's laws and to take care of and look after my family. I don't know about what the society thinks.

19. What is your most prized possession?

My faith in god.

20. Is there a gender difference in India?

I guess that there is a difference. It really is up to each individual. Some men respect women and some don't. I work for Mrs. Patil (our tour director), and as you can see, I have a great respect for her.

But it is hard to have daughters. I have eleven daughters. You have to pay dowery for them. If you don't pay then people talk behind your back. They say, "He had guts enough to have a daughter, but not to pay decent dowery for her." Who wants to hear that?

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